



## NEWS FROM THE 1st DISTRICT

Dear Friends,

Last week, the House passed several major pieces of legislation, including a tax bill and the final version of the annual Defense Bill.

### **Standing against the GOP tax scam**

The tax bill that the House Republicans passed Thursday seeks to steal from the vast majority of Americans to benefit the very few. This is an attack on our economic security and on the fabric of our nation. The House Republicans' tax scam is loaded with provisions to help the wealthiest: it eliminates the estate tax, which will only be paid by an estimated 5,500 super-wealthy Americans this year, and slashes the corporate tax rate claimed by the biggest businesses. Meanwhile, it raises taxes on many middle-class families, and it sets small benefits for working families to expire in five years – while making cuts for corporations permanent. And make no mistake about it: these cuts will take money away from needed national security investments at this dangerous moment in time.

The House Republican tax bill axes deductions that help working people so it can give more to the wealthiest. For example, this bill eliminates the deduction for high medical expenses claimed by over 40,000 Granite Staters and the student loan interest deduction that helps people saddled with student debt. It even takes away the modest \$250 above-the-line deduction I fought to make permanent for almost 20,000 New Hampshire teachers – while keeping the golf course tax loophole. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office says the plan would explode the deficit by \$1.7 trillion, triggering automatic cuts to Medicare. We all know our tax code desperately needs reform – but those reforms need to help the working people who are already losing out under our tax code, not give even more to the wealthiest 1% and the biggest corporations.

The House Republicans' tax bill isn't just regressive – it's enormously hypocritical. After subjecting our country to years of obstruction and brinkmanship over the debt ceiling and government funding levels as they claimed they cared about the deficit, the House Republicans proposed a plan that would explode the deficit by \$1.7 trillion. They want to repeat the damage they did during the Bush era, when they drove up the national debt by \$4.9 trillion. We've seen this rodeo before, and it was a disaster. In 2003, seeking a second round of tax cuts, Vice President Dick Cheney infamously said: "Reagan proved that deficits don't matter." This year, the House Republicans are again acknowledging that they only care about deficits when it's politically expedient. "It's a great talking point when you have an administration that's Democrat-

led," said Representative Mark Walker (R-NC), chairman of the hyper-conservative Republican Study Committee.

I will never support a plan that exacerbates income inequality by giving away even more to corporations and individuals that are already favored by our tax code, and then, in the name of deficit reduction, asks working Americans to bear the brunt of draconian budget cuts to essential federal programs. In contrast to the closed process that yielded this unacceptable bill, I will continue to advocate for an honest, bipartisan discussion on revenue-neutral tax reform that prioritizes tax relief for working families and small businesses in order to address our nation's income inequality crisis.

For a collection of statistics about the impact this bill would have on New Hampshire families, [click here](#).

### **Securing priorities in the final defense bill**

This past week, the House and Senate passed a final Defense Bill that supports our troops with a pay raise of 2.4% and prevents a new Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) round.

Senator Shaheen and I secured the inclusion of a bipartisan amendment that directs the Department of Defense to fund a nationwide health study on implications of perfluorinated chemicals (PFCs), such as PFOA, in drinking water. Community members who live near contaminated sites deserve answers about how they and their children may be affected by PFCs, and guidance on what steps they can and should take to protect their health. This study is a major step towards getting our community members the answers they deserve, and I'm pleased we were able to secure it in today's final defense bill.

Our National Guard and Reserve members deserve the same benefits as those they serve alongside. Together with Congressman Tim Walz (MN-01), Ranking Member of the House Veterans' Affairs Committee, I secured the inclusion of a provision to extend the TRICARE health benefits currently available to Active Component forces to deployed reserve component service members. With this fix, all our overseas troops and their families will now have access to TRICARE health benefits, both before and after deployment. I was glad to work with Congressman Walz on this legislation, and I thank him for serving our nation and then being a tireless advocate for all those who served.

The bill also includes my legislative initiatives to strengthen deterrence against Russia and addresses climate change's impact on military readiness. To read about more provisions I included in the final bill, please [click here](#).

### **New England coordination against fentanyl and heroin**

This past week, the New England Congressional Delegation had a productive meeting with Michael J. Ferguson, Special Agent in Charge of the Drug Enforcement Administration for New England.



He and his agents are doing a heroic job fighting the onslaught of fentanyl, heroin, and other opioids with current resources, but they need funding to hire more agents, and they need the government to improve access to treatment in order to reduce demand for these extremely lethal drugs.

### **Thanking our veterans**

I was honored to participate in the annual Veterans Day Ceremony at New Hampshire State Veterans Cemetery in Boscawen and thank those who have answered our nation's call.



Last week, as Veterans Day approached, the House put partisanship aside and passed several bills to improve health care for our nation's veterans I had cosponsored. I'm proud that the House passed our bills to honor the solemn commitments we make to those who serve. Our veterans deserve the best quality health care we can provide, and I will continue to work across the aisle to improve services for veterans in New Hampshire and across the country.

### **Honoring first responders**

I was privileged to be at a moving Medal of Honor ceremony for the brave members of the U.S. Capitol Police who responded heroically to the awful Congressional baseball practice attack.



Thank you to all brave police officers who work tirelessly to keep Americans safe.

### **Closing thoughts**



Last week, I had a great discussion with UNH Professor Dante Scala's class about the relationship between Congress and the Executive Branch. They were bright students with great questions, and I enjoyed my time with them.

Best wishes,

*Carol Shea-Porter*

Carol

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#### Recent Press Releases

- [Shea-Porter Votes Against House GOP Tax Scam](#)
- [Shea-Porter Secures Key Priorities in Final Bicameral Defense Bill](#)
- [Shea-Porter, Walz Secure TRICARE Fairness Provision in Final Bicameral Defense Bill](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on Veterans Day](#)
- [Shea-Porter's Legislation to Fund a Nationwide Health Study on Water Contaminants Included in Annual Defense Bill](#)
- [House Passes Four Shea-Porter Cosponsored Veterans Bills](#)
- [Shea-Porter Statement on House Republican Tax Proposal](#)

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[Providing a PATH for veterans](#)

Portsmouth Herald // Lara Bricker

Congresswoman Carol Shea-Porter, D-N.H., earlier this month announced an agreement between the Manchester VA Medical Center and Northeast Passage to provide community-based recreational therapy services to Granite State veterans. Though PATH has been in existence since 1998, the VA will now pay for New Hampshire veterans to receive recreational therapy treatment through its Choice program, said Jill Gravnik, founder and executive director of Northeast Passage. "This is the first time that recreational therapy has been considered a reimbursable service," Gravnik said.



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